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(54) **Germicidal compositions containing iodine compounds.**

(57) Germicidal compositions containing iodine compounds with formulae I and II, where n is a whole number and R is a decylenic group. These compositions may include other chemical compounds which have a sterilizing and disinfecting function and which synergize and improve the activity of said compounds I and II. Said compounds I and II can be obtained from their corresponding chlorides by addition of metallic iodine, thus provoking the shifting of chlorine by iodine.

These germicidal compositions can be used for preventing infections in hospitals as well as in the food canning, pharmaceutical and other related industries.

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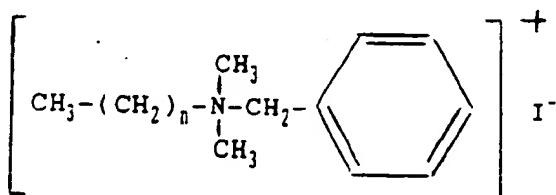
**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The invention refers to a process for the preparation of iodine derivatives with germicidal activity. In addition, the invention provides new germicidal compositions which comprise the iodine derivatives of the invention together with other chemical products. These products have different and specific functions in order to carry out a sterilizing and disinfecting activity or to synergize and improve the main effect of the active iodine compounds.

The iodine compounds provided by the invention have a complex structure and include some high molecular weight molecules where metallic iodine has been fixed by means of a shifting reaction.

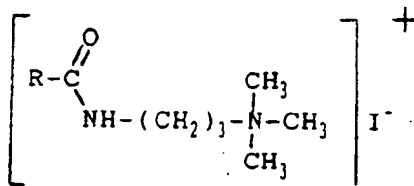
In particular, the iodine compounds provided by the invention correspond to the following formulae:

a) dimethyl alkyl benzylammonium iodide (compound I) having the following general formula:



where n is a whole number between 1 and 20 (both included) and

b) quaternary ammonium amide iodide (compound II) having the following general formula:



where R is a decylenic group.

**USE OF THE INVENTION**

The iodine compounds I and II provided by the invention are suitable for preventing hospital infection, their main activity being to avoid and to control said infection which frequently arises during hospital practice, for example as post-surgical complication or by any other means, thus implying a reduction in the death rates for these causes and a reduction in the hospital costs.

In addition compounds I and II of the present invention may be used in the industry, in particular in the food canning and in the pharmaceutical industry.

**BACKGROUND ART****1. Principles**

Hospital infection can be transmitted by different ways and can affect any person in an hospital. Not only patients, but also the hospital personnel and even the visitors may be affected by the infection. The problem is hard to solve and very important. According to Mr. William Foege, 9% of all the American patients which have to stay in hospitals are infected by hospital infections not directly related with the original cause for going to the hospital. The increase in sanitary costs is also very relevant.

The tests at hospital scale carried out with the germicidal compositions provided by the invention incorporating the iodine compounds I and II previously mentioned lead to results which allow to state that the problem of infection can be satisfactorily solved by means of the use of said germicidal composition.

No references have been found to other similar systems or compounds which could solve not only hospital infection, but infections caused by germs which negatively affect the industry provoking economical losses.

In the searched literature only few references have been found relating to some compounds which at the allowable use concentrations do not solve the problem satisfactorily.

## 2. State of the art

For a better understanding of the present invention the systems and agents presently used against microorganisms will be shortly referred.

It is known that sterilization consists in the total destruction of all microorganisms even in spore form, while, in general, disinfection refers to the destruction of microorganisms which cause infectious diseases.

The systems used for sterilization can be physical or chemical. Among the physical systems, the following could be mentioned:

- a) Filtration suitable only for liquids and air.
- b) Dry heat e.g. burning or flaming.
- c) Wet heat at normal pressure like pasteurization and tyndalization.
- d) Wet heat at high pressure, using pressure cooker.
- e) Ultrasounds, specially suitable for bacteria.
- f) Radiation, in particular ultraviolet, ionizing, gamma and radiosterilization. Ultraviolet radiation is not very effective against certain viruses and other Gram-negative germs. Ionizing radiations have a partially bactericide effect and a dubious effectiveness when sterilizing plastic materials. X and gamma radiations are lethal for almost all type of germs but cannot be used in hospitals or in industrial processes. Radiosterilization has the disadvantage that it requires cobalt 60 generators which are not provided in all the communities.
- g) The use of gases like i) ethylene oxide which has the disadvantage of generating toxic residues which have to be aerated for disposal and, in addition, it produces an explosive mixture. Therefore, it has been forbidden in the CE, ii) beta propyl lactone which is not usable for being carcinogenic and iii) cyanhydric acid, very limited for its toxicity.

The chemical products or agents normally used for the destruction of microorganisms must have the following features:

- a) strong germicidal power and broad spectrum.
- b) solubility in polar and non polar environments.
- c) low surface tension.
- d) not toxic, not corrosive and preferably odourless.
- e) stability and compatibility with other chemical substances used in cleaning and disinfection (soap, etc).

Among the chemical products normally used in disinfection, the following should be mentioned:

- a) Oxidants for example i) hydrogen peroxide of very brief action; ii) potassium permanganate, not very much used because it stains the treated surfaces; and halides which will be reviewed later on.
- b) Acids, not very much used for their corrosive effect.
- c) Alkaline substances, like sodium hydroxide, which is toxic at the use dosage.
- d) Alcohols, like ethanol, which is not germicidal but synergizes the effect of iodine. It can also decrease the germicidal activity of other agents like phenol, formaldehyde and heavy metals.
- e) Aldehydes, for example i) formaldehyde, forbidden by the EC for being carcinogenic; ii) formal which is not very much used because of its toxicity to humans and because it produces toxic gases; iii) glutaldehyde, not stable and toxic.
- f) Phenolic derivatives, for example i) phenol, which is irritant to the skin; ii) hexachlorophenol, which is only bacteriostatic and in addition produces diseases in the central nervous system of new born babies which have been bathed with 3% solution of this substance; iii) cresols, which are not used because of its toxicity and iv) picric acid which are also very limited because of its toxicity.
- g) Halides for example i) chlorine and certain derivatives like sodium or calcium hypochlorite and the chloramines and ii) iodine which is a good disinfectant and is used normally as iodine dye. Nevertheless, iodine derivatives have in general a certain irritant effect on the skin and for this reason they are normally mixed with non ionic surfactants which decrease said irritant effect thus resulting iodine compounds like iodine polyvinylpyrrolidone which has a very strong bactericide effect but cannot be used because it has a very low water solubility where it splits liberating iodine.
- h) Diguanidine compounds, e.g. chlorhexidine where the active principle is bichlorophenyl-diguanidohexane which is a good bactericide in particular against Gram-positive microorganisms, but stains the treated textiles and is not compatible with formaldehyde, anionic compounds, soaps etc. thus limiting its use even more.
- i) Surfactants which are used in 0.5% alcoholic solution for washing hands and skin and in the food industry. Among this group the humectants which can be cationic, anionic or non ionic should be highlighted.

Benzalconium chloride has been used very much but it has been stated that its effect is decreased by proteins and cellulose fibers.

j) Metallic compounds, for example i) mercury compounds (soluble and not soluble) some of them having toxic and irritant effect; ii) silver compounds, not very effective for disinfecting large areas because of its limited germicidal activity; iii) cupric salts usable as fungicides in open containers but requiring constant humidity degree, thus limiting its use;

k) Organometallic compounds like mercuriolate and mercury-chrome, effective for sores disinfection, but affected by the light, its use at industrial scale being therefore discarded.

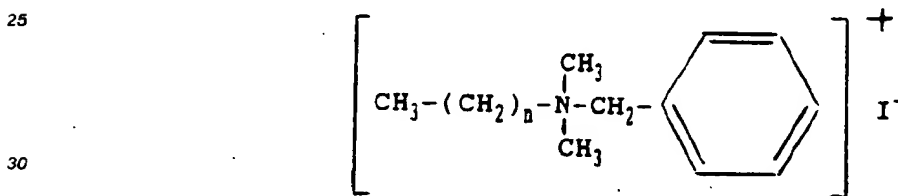
l) Other chemical agents used as disinfectants are acridine dyes and pine essential oils which in some cases can be potentially toxic (acridine dyes) and are frequently used for disinfecting and deodorizing closed rooms.

As it can be appreciated none of the physical or chemical systems presently used in disinfection or sterilization does properly solve the problems arising during disinfection processes and many of them present, in addition, limitations to their use. However, by using the germicidal compositions of the present invention which include, among other substances, the iodine derivatives I and II previously indicated above it is possible to solve the mentioned problems and to properly disinfect all type of rooms and equipments.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

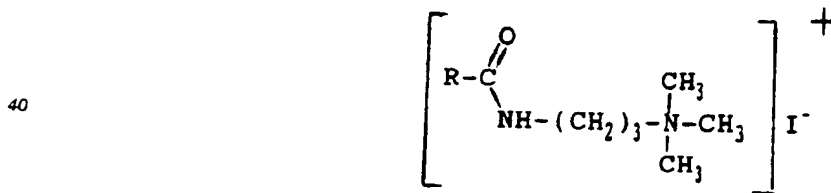
According to one embodiment of the present invention, a process for the obtention of iodine derivatives I and II is provided, said iodine derivatives being

a) dimethyl alkyl benzylalmonium iodide (derivative I) having the following general formula:



where n is a whole number between 1 and 20 (both included) and

b) quaternary ammonium amide iodide (derivative II) having the following general formula:



where R is a decylenic group.

A decylenic group is an alkenyle group having 10 carbon atoms and with a double bond in any position of the group.

Compounds I and II mentioned above could be obtained from the corresponding chlorides by reaction with metallic iodine thereby occurring a shifting of chlorine by iodine. A more detailed description of this process will be given when reviewing the obtention procedure of the germicide compositions of the present invention. According to another embodiment of the present invention germicide compositions suitable for sterilizing and disinfecting rooms, equipments and apparatus are provided, said compositions including iodine compounds I and II as well as other chemical substances which have the previously mentioned activity. The chemical substances which can be present in the compositions together with the iodine compounds I and II are the following:

- an oxyethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols of ethylene oxide;
- resublimated metallic iodine
- glycerol in order to avoid the astringent action of eventual free iodine in the composition;
- a monoglyceride of polioxyethylenated fatty acid in order to decrease the surface tension of the environment.

onment, thereby achieving a rapid humectation of the cell walls in the case of bacteria or breaking the different proteins which form the virus capsule;

- glycol in order to avoid that the free iodine reacts with other components of the germicidal composition. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention a germicidal composition is provided, constituted by:

5	- dimethyl-stearyl benzine alconium (I) iodide	45%
	- N-1-(3-trimethylammonium)-propyl-undecylamide (II) iodide	10%
	- oxiethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols E.O	10%
10	- resublimated metallic iodine	4%
	- monoglyceride of a polyoxiethylenated fatty acid	10%
	- glycerol	5%
15	- glycol	16%

All the proportions are indicated in weight percentage referred to the total weight of the composition.

The germicidal compositions of the present invention may be obtained by a process comprising the following steps:

- 20 a) loading a reactor provided with stirring means with the appropriate amounts of a previously melted dimethylalkyl-benzylalconium chloride;
- b) adding while smoothly stirring the appropriate amount of the quaternary ammonium amide of undecylenic acid;
- c) adding the appropriate amount of glycol.
- 25 d) slowly adding resublimated metallic iodine in the appropriate stoichiometric proportion while increasing the stirring;
- e) adding the appropriate amounts of:
  - i) monoglyceride of polyoxiethylenated fatty acid;
  - ii) glycerol;
  - 30 iii) oxiethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols ethylene oxide;
- f) adding mineral acid until a pH of approx. 4.5 is obtained.

In general, the process is carried out at a temperature slightly over 20°C, the stirring speed being in the range between 400 and 1600 rpm.

By this way of operation, the shifting of the chloride present in the reacting substances and its substitution by iodine is achieved, the above mentioned iodine derivatives I and II being formed thereby.

It has been stated that the germicidal compositions provided by the present invention perform their activity by the following mechanism:

- extraction of essential cellular metabolites;
- denaturalization of cellular proteins;
- 40 - reaction with cellular lipids;
- provoking an enzymatic disequilibrium and inhibiting essential coenzymes for the microorganisms and
- expelling the vital matter out of the cell through the membrane by disrupting the osmotic balance.

This mechanism enables the germicidal compositions provided by the present invention to be very effective, not only before Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, but against viruses as well and therefore they can be used for sterilizing and disinfecting rooms, equipment, apparatus etc..

It has been stated that the germicidal compositions provided by the present invention, in particular the previously mentioned preferred composition is not irritant, not sensibilizing and non mutagenic at the use dosages tested. This is illustrated by examples 5 to 7.

The composition is very effective against different types of germs (example 2).

50 The skilled man will, in view of the present description, notice that the invention resides in the shifting and substitution of chloride by iodine in a quaternary ammonium salt, the germicidal and fungicidal activity of the iodine molecules of the invention being provided by this change.

All the other possible modifications like the substitution of the benzyl group of compound I by other aromatic groups as well as variations in the number of -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups or their arrangement (lineal or branched) are secondary changes which do not affect the germicidal or fungicidal activity of compounds I and II of the present invention.

Following, some examples of different ways of carrying the process of the invention are given, as well as

some other examples illustrating the germicidal activity of the considered compositions. Said examples are not limitative of the scope of the present invention.

#### EXAMPLE 1

A stainless steel reactor provided with stirring means is loaded with 450g of previously melted dimethylstearyl benzylaluminium. Stirring is then started at a speed of 500 rpm and 100g of undecylenic acid amide are then added at a temperature over 20°C. Stirring is maintained until a complete mixture of all the components is achieved, approximately after 10 minutes. Later 160 g of glycol are added while maintaining the same stirring and temperature conditions until complete mixing. 40 g of resublimated metallic iodine are then added very slowly while the stirring speed is increased up to 1500 rpm. Stirring is maintained until iodine is completely solved and has reacted with the other components. The final mixture should not have suspended particles.

The following compounds are then added to the obtained mixture:

i) 100 g of oxiethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols of ethylene oxide.

ii) 50 g of glycerol and

iii) 100g of the monoglyceride of the polyoxiethylenated fatty acid;

stirring is maintained at least during 15 minutes and finally a mineral acid is added until the resultant solution reaches a ph of 4.5 approx. Stirring is maintained for one hour. After stating that no residues of free iodine are present, the obtained composition can be bottled.

#### EXAMPLE 2

##### Test of effectiveness against different types of germs

Some microbiological tests were carried out for determining the microbicidal activity of the composition obtained according to Example 1. Three different types of microorganisms were tested: bacteria, yeast and fungi.

A bouillon made of meat and glucose yeast was used as culture medium and the germs were:

i) *Staphylococcus aureus*;

ii) *Saccharomyces ellipsoideus*; and

iii) *Penicillium crysogenum*.

The consecutive dilution technique was used: 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 ppm. 48 hours cultures of the germs indicated above were inoculated (0.01 cm<sup>3</sup> in each case). The growth measurement was made by nephelometry.

In a second set of tests different dilutions were used interpolating the doses between those of the first experiment were growth was first detected. Finally, the germicide activity was tested by viability culture in agar environment. The following results were obtained:

FIRST EXPERIMENT	
Germ	Germicide Activity (no growth)
	Dose comprised between (ppm)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	1 and 5
<i>Saccharomyces ellipsoideus</i>	10 and 20
<i>Penicillium crysogenum</i>	20 and 30

SECOND EXPERIMENT		
Germ	Microbicide activity (ppm)	One part in
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	3	333.333
<i>Saccharomyces ellipsoideus</i>	12	85.333
<i>Penicillium crysog num</i>	22	45.000

These results indicate that microbicidal effect of the germicidal composition of Example 1 against the tested germs.

### EXAMPLE 3

#### Test of antimicrobial activity in drinking water

A test was carried out for searching the antimicrobial activity of the composition obtained according to Example 1 in relation to microorganisms contained in drinking water. The test was carried out according to the swiss norm Clinical Microbiology ASM 1991 which briefly comprises:

- a) diluting the germicidal composition in sterile deionized water.
- b) homogenizing 10 ml of drinking water sample and 10 ml of the diluted germicidal composition in a vibrating device.
- c) maintaining the mixture in contact during 15 minutes and transferring 1 ml of said sample to 10 ml of Muller-Hinton gel heated at 45°C and immediately transferring it to a culture plate. Simultaneously 1 ml of the mixture water-germicidal composition is transferred to 1 ml of double concentrated Muller-Hinton gel. The obtained preparations were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours.

Following results were obtained:

#### 1. Microbiological test of the drinking water used

1.1 Number of germs per ml : 407.5

#### 1.2 Isolated germs:

Pseudomonas putida  
Xanthomonas maltophilia  
Streptococcus  
Chromobacter  
Staphylococcus coagulase  
Bacillus sp  
Aspergillus niger  
Aspergillus sp

#### 2. Antimicrobial power

Dilutions of the germicide composition

	10 <sup>-2</sup>	5x10 <sup>-2</sup>	10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.5x10 <sup>-3</sup>	5x10 <sup>-3</sup>	10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.5x10 <sup>-4</sup>
Growth	-	-	-	-	-	+	+

From the obtained results it can be stated that the germicidal composition can be used for descontaminating drinking water at a dilution comprised between 1/2500 and 1/5000.

### EXAMPLE 4

#### Oral acute toxicity test

Some tests were carried out in order to obtain information about potential health hazards as a result of exposures to single doses of the germicidal composition of example 1.

Wistar albino rats with a weight comprised between 400 and 550 g were selected before starting the experiment, which was carried out according to the Community norms (Directive 79/831, Annex VIII part B, B2 (Toxicological methods for the evaluation of chemical substances). The experiment lasted 7 days and afterwards the surviving animals were killed.

Two different dilutions of the germicidal composition of example 1 were used: 1/10 and 1/30. The single dose was 2000 microliter/kg weight and was applied on the first day of the experience. Mortality, morbidity, behaviour and toxicity signs after the application of the dose were observed after 30 minutes, 4 hours, 24 hours, 48 hours until 7 days. The obtained results were:

#### TEST A

Number of tested animals: 8 (male)

Dose: 2000 microliter/kg weight

Dilution of the germicide composition: 1/10

In. weight (g)	Dos (ul)	Final weight (g)	Observations
502	1000	473	Death
489	980	395	Death
429	860	390	Death
434	870	428	Death
423	850	401	Death
460	920	284	Death
443	890	419	Death
455	910	455	Death

All the animals died before finishing the test. Therefore, at 1/10 dilution the germicide composition has a toxic lethal performance on test animals.

## TEST B

Number of animals tested: 8 (male) Dose: 2000 microliter/kg weight Dilution of the germicidal composition: 1/30

<u>In. weight (g)</u>	<u>Dose(ml)</u>	<u>Final weight(g)</u>	<u>Observations</u>
414	0.8	380	Dyspnoea
506	1.0	400	"
532	1.1	471	"
493	1.0	474	"*
546	1.1	513	"
499	1.0	458	Slight dyspnoea
461	0.9	397	"
473	0.9	438	Moderate dyspnoea

\* Death one day after application of the dose

From this experiment, it can be inferred that the  $DL_{50}$  must be comprised between 110 mg/kg (dilution 1/10) and 36.6 mg/kg (dilution 1/30).

## EXAMPLE 5

### Test of retarded hipersensibility in Guinea pigs

Some tests were carried out in order to obtain information about potential health hazards, in particular skin sensitization as a result to the exposure to single doses of the germicide compositions of example 1.

For the experiment albino Guinea pigs having 7-8 weeks and with a weight comprised between 450 and 700 g were shaved on the places where the samples were going to be applied. The experiment was performed according to the EC norms already mentioned in the present description during a period of 28 days.

The sample diluted 1/300 was applied on the flank of the animal in the form of a non porous dressing. The animals were separated in two groups: on the one hand a control group formed by 5 animals and on the other group constituted by 5 males and 5 females.



## Operating procedure:

a) Induction step

24 hours before the treatment as well as on the 7th and 14th day the animals were shaved on their flanks and on the 1st, 8th and 15th days the composition was applied at a dose of 0.5 ml. The control animals passed the same treatment but without applying the germicidal composition to them.

b) Final step

On the 28th day, a skin area was shaved on all the animals (treated and control). On the 28th day, all the animals were treated by application of 0.5 ml during 6 hours. Afterwards, the dressing and the skin were kindly separated. The following results were obtained:

## CONTROL GROUP

Dilution: 1/300

SEX	In.W.	Fin.W.	Days				
			0	7	14	28	29-30
M	582	603	-	-	-	0	0
M	643	660	-	-	-	0	0
M	660	708	-	-	-	0	0
M	569	595	-	-	-	0	0
M	590	613	-	-	-	0	0

## EXPERIMENTALL GROUP

Dilution: 1/300

SEX	In. W.	Fin. W.	Days				
			0	7	14	28	29-30
M	609	652	0	0	0	0	0
M	591	626	0	0	0	0	0
M	646	677	0	0	0	0	0
M	626	649	0	0	0	0	0
M	515	559	0	0	0	0	0
M	545	567	0	0	0	0	0
M	539	558	0	0	0	0	0
M	547	564	0	0	0	0	0
M	595	619	0	0	0	0	0
M	496	523	0	0	0	0	0

## Evaluation of skin reaction:

Value 0: No irritation; no reaction Value -: Slight irritation;

In view of these results, it can be inferred that on the tested conditions the composition of example 1 does not cause any retarded hypersensitivity by contact.

The same experiment was carried out with a 1/10 dilution, always obtaining no irritation evidence.

**EXAMPLE 6****Irritation/corrosion test on rabbits**

5 A sample (0,5 g diluted 1/10) of the composition obtained according to example 1 was applied on 3 albine rabbits by means of an occlusive dressing on a 6 cm<sup>2</sup> surface. The adjacent non treated skin portions constituted the control for the test. Observations were carried out 1, 24, 48 and 72 hours after application and also after 7 days in order to control retarded reactions.

10 After the 7th day no irritation was noticed on any animals. Therefore, it can be inferred that the test dose is not irritant.

**EXAMPLE 7****Mutagenic reversion test**

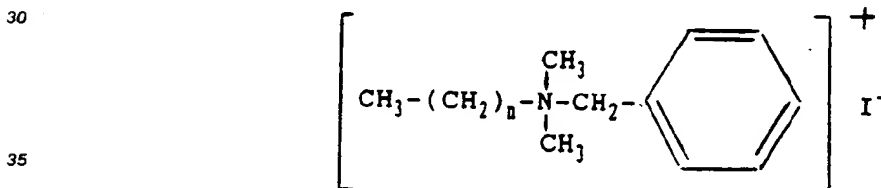
15 In order to search if the germicide composition according to example 1 was carcinogenic or mutagenic, the Ames and Purchase tests were performed.

20 A 100 microliter sample diluted 1/50000 of the composition of example 1 was used. The obtained results permit to state that said germicidal composition in the tested conditions does not provoke mutations in the bacteria. Thus, under the tested conditions, the germicide composition is not mutagenic.

**Claims**

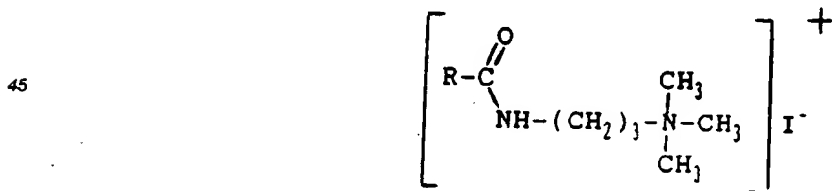
25 1. A broad spectrum germicidal composition comprising an effective amount of the following iodine compounds:

a) dimethyl alkyl benzylalconium iodide having general formula I:



40 where n is a whole number between 1 and 20 (both included); and

b) quaternary ammonium amide iodide having general formula II:



where R is a decylenic group.

55 2. Germicidal composition according to claim 1, characterized in that in addition to the compounds with formula I and II, it contains appropriate amounts of other chemical compounds which have a sterilizing and disinfecting function and which synergize and improve the activity of said compounds I and II

3. A germicidal composition according to claim 2, characterized in that said additional compounds are selected among:

- an oxiethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols ethylene oxide;
- resublimated metallic iodine;
- glycerol;
- a monoglyceride of polyoxiethylenated fatty acid;
- glycol.

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4. A germicidal composition according to the previous claims, characterized in that said composition comprises:

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- dimethyl-stearyl benzyl alconium (I) iodide	45%
- N-1-(3-trimethylammonium)-propyl-undecylamide (II) iodide	10%
- oxyethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols E.O.	10%
- resublimated metallic iodine	4%
- monoglyceride of a polyoxiethylenated fatty acid	10%
- glycerol	5%
- glycol	16%

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All the proportions are indicated in weight percentage referred to the total weight of the composition.

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5. Process for the obtention of a germicidal composition containing the iodine derivatives with general formulae I and II of claim 1, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:
- a) loading a reactor provided with stirring means with the appropriate amount of a previously melted dimethylalkylbenzylalconium chloride;
  - b) adding while smoothly stirring the appropriate amount of the quaternary ammonium amide of undecylenic acid;
  - c) adding the appropriate amount of glycol.
  - d) slowly adding resublimated metallic iodine in the appropriate stoichiometric proportion while increasing the stirring;
  - e) then adding the appropriate amounts of:
    - i) monoglyceride of polyoxiethylenated fatty acid;
    - ii) glycerol;
    - iii) oxiethylenated fatty alcohol with 8 mols ethylene oxide;
  - f) adding mineral acid until a ph of approx. 4.5 is obtained.
6. Use of the iodine compounds with general formulae I and II of claim 1 as germicides and fungicides.
7. Use of the germicidal compositions according to claims 1 to 4 for preventing infections in hospitals as well as in the food canning, pharmaceutical and other related industries.
8. Use of the composition according to claim 4 for preventing infections in hospitals and industries and for sterilizing rooms, equipments and apparatus.

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European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 50 0084

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	EP-A-0 252 310 (MERZ & CO.) * claims *	1-8	A01N37/20
A	WO-A-9 115 120 (DAMTOFT) * page 7 * * claims *	1-8	
A	AU-A-333 976 (SCHULKE & MAYR)		
A	US-A-4 042 368 (A.A. ARGIRIARDI)		
A	FR-A-2 379 508 (ZAMBELETTI)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A01N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 09 NOVEMBER 1992	Examiner DALKAFUKI A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 150 (01.82) (P0601)